

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AODE, EAGR, ID

SUBJECT: MODE - FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE PROPOSAL TO
ADD AN ASSISTANT ATTACHE AT JAKARTA IN FY-78

1. AS PART OF ITS FY-78 BUDGET PREPARATIONS, THE FOREIGN
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE (FAS), DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, IS
PROPOSING TO ADD ONE ASSISTANT ATTACHE TO THE FAS OFFICE
IN JAKARTA (CURRENTLY COMPRISING ONE ATTACHE, ONE US
SECRETARY, AND ONE FOREIGN NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL).

2. FAS' JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS PROPOSAL IS AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE. MARKET DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY
EXPANDED, ESPECIALLY FOR WHEAT AND PROCESSED FOODS UNDER
THE FAS MARKET DEVELOPMENT COOPERATOR PROGRAMS AND HAVE
STIMULATED TRADE ASSOCIATIONS AND U.S. BUSINESS EFFORTS
TO INCREASE THE U.S. SHARE OF THE INDONESIAN MARKET.
WESTERN WHEAT ASSOCIATES, THE POULTRY AND EGG INSTITUTE OF
AMERICA, OTHER COOPERATORS AND PROCESSED FOOD FIRMS HAVE
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ACCELERATED THE FREQUENCY OF THEIR VISITS TO INDONESIA.

SINCE THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE OFFICE IS THE FOCAL POINT FOR COORDINATION, GUIDANCE AND CONTACTS, ADEQUATE STAFFING IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT SERVICES WHICH THE ATTACHE AND HIS FOREIGN NATIONAL ASSISTANT CANNOT NOW PROVIDE AND FULFILL THEIR REGULAR REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES EFFICIENTLY AND ON TIME.

HE STAFFING DEFICIENCY WAS NOTED DURING SECRETARY BUTZ' AND FAS ADMINISTRATOR HUME'S VISIT TO INDONESIA IN APRIL 1976. THE U.S. CURRENT SHARE OF INDONESIA'S IMPORTS IS 17-20 PERCENT, BUT THE POTENTIAL TO INCREASE THIS PERCENTAGE CLEARLY EXISTS, ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE SALES OF U.S. EQUIPMENT FOR SEVERAL PENDING MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, AND OBTAINING A LARGER SHARE OF THE FOOD AND FIBER IMPORTS. IN RECENT YEARS AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS HAVE EXCEEDED 1 BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY; RICE, COTTON, WHEAT, AND SUGAR ARE MAJOR COMMODITIES. ALL EXCEPT SUGAR ARE IMPORTED FROM THE U.S. BUT THE U.S. SHARE IN TOTAL REPRESENTS ONLY 10 TO 15 PERCENT OF INDONESIAN IMPORTS BUT WITH GOOD POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED SALES. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENTS OF COM ARE REQUESTED CONCERNING THE PROPOSAL TO ADD ONE ASSISTANT US ATTACHE IN INDONESIA. A REPLY BY AUGUST 26 WILL BE APPRECIATED. DEPARTMENT WILL UTILIZE EMBASSY VIEWS IN COMMUNICATING TO BOTH FAS AND OMB ITS ASSESSMENT ON THIS FAS FY 78 BUDGET PROPOSAL. ROBINSON

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